

BOOKS AND LITERARY CRITICISM AND BOOK NEWS

A Pacifist's Amazing Historical Perspective—The Pontificate—The Rise and Greatness of Antwerp.

FORCE AND PEACE.
NEW WAR, FOR OLD. By John Hays Holmes. 12mo. \$1.00. Doubleday, Page & Co.
Ex pede Herculem. Or shall we say ex pedibus, since there crop out at first sight two noteworthy indices of the quality of this book? The pastor of the Church of the Messiah describes it as a statement of radical pacifism in terms of force versus non-force, with special reference to the facts and problems of the great war. It is, as might therefore be expected, an exposition of what we might paradoxically call militant pacifism. Its principal function is not so much to expatiate upon and to commend the blessings of peace as to indict, arraign, attack and demolish force. In the indictment there are two principal counts: That force cannot save a nation, and that force is not compatible with the higher life.
"Where, in all the history of ancient and modern times," demands Mr. Holmes, "is there a single nation that has ever found permanent security in arms?" He cites Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, Sparta and Rome as "horrible examples of the fallacy of force. These were apparently protected against all possibility of military disaster. Yet they have perished. They have disappeared. Truly, they that take the sword shall perish by the sword." Quod erat demonstrandum. But what is thus proved after all? Absolutely nothing so far as the controversy between force and non-resistance is concerned, for the reason that not a single example is cited on the other side. Where are the pacifist and non-resistance contemporaries of Assyria, Babylonia, Egypt, Sparta and Rome which have survived while those militant powers have perished? Mr. Holmes does not name them. History does not record them. Search cannot find them. They are not, and they were not. Neither is there the slightest proof that these militant powers perished because of their militancy, or that they

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MARGARET WIDEMER. ("The Rose Garden Husband," Lipincott Company.)
SARA WARE BASSETT. ("The Taming of Zenas Henry," George H. Doran Company.)

ing these eighty years was far from being unalloyed. The city had to take its share in the war which Maximilian waged against Flanders; and later it was vexed by a chronic quarrel with the province of Guelders, which was supported by the kings of France in hostility to the German sovereigns of the Netherlands. On one occasion, in 1542, it was in imminent danger of assault by Martin van Rossem, a Guelders general who had invaded Brabant, but who was deterred from actual attack by the resolute spirit shown by the magistracy in preparation for defence. The scare of that year was the cause of Antwerp being made, for the first time, a strongly fortified place. Foreign complications sometimes interrupted good relations with England, and the merchants on both sides then suffered loss. Severe winters and bad harvests brought scarcity, sometimes even to the point of famine; storms and floods destroyed the lives both of men and of cattle; the plague more than once appeared and carried off many victims. But the heaviest visitation, affecting chiefly the humbler classes of the inhabitants, was due to religious persecution.

The despotic temper of the Emperor Charles V would have led him to crush the liberties of Antwerp if its prosperity, which depended on its freedom, had not been necessary to him as a source of loans for his foreign wars. But he allowed himself a free hand in dealing with heresy in his Netherlands dominions. A series of severe edicts, known as Placards, gave directions for the hunting out and punishment of heretics. Lutheranism early found in Antwerp a congenial soil for its propaganda, and later the sect of the Anabaptists, who added to religious unorthodoxy revolutionary political ideas, counted many adherents in the city. The measures taken against them offer a sickening tale of executions by burning, beheading and drowning of great numbers of inoffensive men and women. Englishmen may remember, too, that it was in Antwerp at this period that William Tyndale sought refuge and found a martyr's death.

Mr. Wegg has gone deeply into the life of Antwerp in its various aspects, and his work, though dealing with a limited period, is a valuable contribution to civic history. It is based on a careful study of the printed materials available, of which a full list is given. There is, however, a want of unity in its treatment of the subject. The political, economic and social history of the city are all dealt with on the same scale, without any leading ideas being suggested about which the multitudinous facts may be grouped. Thus the chapters on art, excellent as they are, seem out of place. A good chronological table is only a partial compensation. The author's style, though clear, is not distinguished, except by some curious deviations from ordinary usage. The illustrations are good, but should have been supplemented by an outline map of the Netherlands. The gravest defect of the book, however, is a very inadequate index. Many names are entirely absent, and such words as "Placards," "Plague" and

Low Countries have made, indeed, no such splendid contributions to civilization as have those of ancient Greece or of medieval Italy; but they have a place of their own in the history of human progress, while for Englishmen their affairs have ever been a matter of very direct concern. The present war is the latest illustration of that fact.
In the work before us Mr. Wegg has given a very careful and detailed account of Antwerp during the period when it reached its greatest pitch of importance and stood at the height of its prosperity. He starts from the year 1434, that momentous epoch for the Low Countries which saw the tragic death at Nancy of their sovereign, Duke Charles the Bold of Burgundy, the succession to his dominions of his young daughter Mary, and her subsequent marriage to the Archduke Maximilian of Austria. By that alliance the seventeen provinces of the Netherlands became a part of the Austrian family possessions, and were involved thenceforth, whether they would or not, in the long drawn out strife between the rival dynasties of Hapsburg and Valois. But the date which marks the beginning of the city's political subjection to outside power corresponds, as nearly as any particular date can do so, to a great economic change within. The decay of the Flemish towns had then set in, the rise of Antwerp had begun. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries Flanders had become a prosperous country, for which wool was imported from England; while the chief Flemish city, Bruges, had been the great commercial centre for Western Europe. But England had since learned to weave her own wool and had become an exporter of cloth; the Flemish cities quarrelled among themselves to the detriment of their industry; worst of all, the Zeven, the arm of the sea by which ships brought merchandise to Bruges, gradually silted up.

This last circumstance, combined with a natural enlargement of the western mouth of the Scheldt which took place about the same time, enabled Antwerp to supplant Bruges as a port. But that alone would hardly have given Antwerp the first place among commercial cities. More than anything else it was the liberal policy adopted toward strangers. Antwerp had always been on good terms with her feudal lords, the Dukes of Brabant, and had received from them a series of charters which gave her citizens almost complete self-government, but which encouraged foreign merchants to visit the place and to establish agencies within it. Any one who would obey the usual dues and would behave himself peaceably could settle in Antwerp and do business there. Nor were merchants hampered, as in the Flemish cities, by restrictions as to the commodities which they might deal in, or as to the persons with whom they might trade. The result was, first, that an immense concourse of foreigners came to attend the two annual fairs, each lasting six weeks, at which business of all kinds was transacted; and, secondly, that the trading corporations of foreign nations had their permanent establishments within the city. The English Merchant Adventurers, the merchants of the Hanse towns, Spanish and Portuguese traders, and those of several Italian cities were thus represented. The native Antwerp merchants had little share in the products of minor industries. Lastly, Antwerp gained immensely by the opening of the Cape route to India by the Portuguese. The Eastern produce Europe by way of the Red Sea, and had been distributed by Venice, now came to Lisbon. Thence it was fetched by Antwerp merchants, who disposed of it over Northern and Western Europe.

From commerce there developed finance. Men who had engaged in purely mercantile transactions and had accumulated capital found that fortunes could be more quickly made in the business of money lending to merchants, to cities or to monarchs; in the last case, however, not without risk. Antwerp, now of the first importance as a commercial city, offered splendid opportunities to financiers, and its fair times were taken advantage of for the negotiation of money business and as terms for the repayment of loans. The place formerly held by Augsburg, Venice and Florence as banking centres was now occupied by Lyons and Antwerp, and in the latter Italian financiers and such German capitalists as the Fuggers did an immense business. Sir Thomas Gresham, among Englishmen, was a frequent visitor to Antwerp to negotiate loans for the Tudor sovereigns.

Yet the prosperity of Antwerp during these eighty years was far from being unalloyed. The city had to take its share in the war which Maximilian waged against Flanders; and later it was vexed by a chronic quarrel with the province of Guelders, which was supported by the kings of France in hostility to the German sovereigns of the Netherlands. On one occasion, in 1542, it was in imminent danger of assault by Martin van Rossem, a Guelders general who had invaded Brabant, but who was deterred from actual attack by the resolute spirit shown by the magistracy in preparation for defence. The scare of that year was the cause of Antwerp being made, for the first time, a strongly fortified place. Foreign complications sometimes interrupted good relations with England, and the merchants on both sides then suffered loss. Severe winters and bad harvests brought scarcity, sometimes even to the point of famine; storms and floods destroyed the lives both of men and of cattle; the plague more than once appeared and carried off many victims. But the heaviest visitation, affecting chiefly the humbler classes of the inhabitants, was due to religious persecution.

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Among the many other articles dealing with subjects prominent in the public mind at present, are:

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